



Legal Notice

Bankhead National Forest

1070 Highway 33 • Double Springs, Alabama 35553 • 205-489-5111

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama



Contact: Elrand D. Denson
205-489-5111

MECHANICAL FUELS REDUCTION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

The USDA Forest Service proposes to conduct a mechanical fuels reduction project on approximately 380 acres on 2 sites within the Bankhead National Forest. The purpose of this project is to lower the risk of catastrophic wildfires by reducing fuels. This project will also improve wildlife habitat for many species including deer, turkey, and some migratory and resident birds, and will restore and maintain upland native forest communities. In addition to these sites, during the same time period mechanical fuel reduction will be applied to several additional sites addressed under other decisions.

This is a very low impact treatment. Ground disturbance will be minimal. Proposed treatment areas are located within established or proposed prescribed burn units, ensuring maintenance of the benefits achieved through this project. Treatment methods are sufficiently controlled that they provide for designation and retention of larger dogwoods and other specific trees as desired. Implementation is planned in fiscal years 2010 - 2014.

The proposed activity will include the reduction of hardwood and pine midstory and selected shrubs in the understory. This treatment will promote the growth of desired fire dependent woodland species identified in the Bankhead's Forest Health and Restoration

project. There are several mechanical methods available by which the project may be completed, including mowing, mulching, grinding and sawing. Herbicides are not proposed for use in this project.

We anticipate this project will be categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS in accordance with category 31.2- (6) of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, dated July 24, 2008. This category includes: *“Timber stand improvements which do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction.”* Excluded projects under this category are subject to review, and comment as described in 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3).

Comments should be sent to Elrand Denson, District Ranger, Bankhead National Forest, Bankhead Ranger District, P.O. Box 278, Double Springs, AL 35553, telephone (205) 489-5111 or fax (205) 489-3427. Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within our normal business hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Comments may be mailed electronically in a common digital format to our office at comments-southern-alabama-bankhead@fs.fed.us. Comments should be received by June 18, 2009.